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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Clifford.

Subject: Central Intelligence Legislation.



On April 1, at the Senate Armed Forces Committee hearings on S. 758, the following exchange occurred,

"Senator Tydings. Admiral, my point is simply this: that under the wording as to the Central Intelligence Agency which begins on page 20 and ends at the top of page 22, it deals more or less with consolidation and not with the duties that devolve upon that office.

It seems to me there is a void in the bill there that ought to be eliminated.

Admiral Sherman. Well, we considered the matter of trying to cover the Central Intelligence Agency adequately, and we found that that matter, in itself, was going to be a matter of legislation of considerable scope and importance.

Senator Tydings. A separate bill?

Admiral Sherman. A separate bill. And after consultation with General Vandenberg, we felt it was better, in this legislation only to show the relationship of the Central Intelligence Agency to the National Security Council, and then leave to separate legislation the task of a full and thorough development of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator Tydings. Well, now, for the record, is it safe for this committee to assume that during this session it is likely that a bill will come along dealing with the Central Intelligence Agency in the particulars that we have had under discussion?

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Admiral Sherman. It is my understanding that that will take place.

The Chairman. How about that, General Vandenberg?

General Vandenberg (Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Chief, Central Intelligence Agency). The enabling Act is prepared, but we do not want to submit that until we have reason for it.

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Admiral Sherman. The intent of this language was merely to transfer the duties of the existing intelligence agency to the Security Council, and, next, to move the functions of the intelligence group as it is now constituted, by a letter directive of the President, over to the authority.

I would suggest that it might be beneficial to take the existing letter directive under which the Central Intelligence Agency is functioning now, and insert it in the record. Because that letter will clarify this whole matter.

The Chairman. At the time the Committee hears General Vandenberg, I am sure the General will bring with him that letter and we will have that in at the start of those hearings."

Respectfully,

GEORGE M. ELSEY

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